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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 18

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

The Cuban Minister of Commerce recently issued a resolution which prohibits the importation from Colombia of hogs, ruminants and poultry because of the reported existence of foot-and-mouth disease among Colombian livestock. This resolution likewise prohibits the importation of meat and livestock products.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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REVISED ESTIMATES OF 1950 POTATO PRODUCTION IN 70 COUNTRIES [1]

World production of potatoes in 1950-51 as reflected in revised estimates for 70 countries, totals about 8.7 billion bushels. This is 9 percent larger than the 1949 production of 8.0 billion bushels from these same countries and 8 percent above the 5-year (1940-44) wartime averages of 8.1 billion bushels and 4 percent above the prewar (1935-39) average of 8.3 billion bushels.

The 1950 season was unusually favorable for potato production in the principal producing countries of northwestern Europe and the northern part of North America. This is reflected in the high yields per acre for many of these countries. In the United States, for example, yields were 238 bushels per acre in 1950 compared with 215 in 1949 and 117 before the war. In Western Germany yields were 367 bushels in 1950 compared with 274 in 1949 and 250 before the war; in the United Kingdom they were 291 bushels compared with 258 and 254. Similar high yields were reported for France, Norway, Belgium and Denmark.

The 1950-51 figures are reasonably final for all countries except those in eastern Europe where reliable data are difficult to obtain and for Southern Hemisphere countries where the 1950-51 harvest is underway or only recently completed. Figures for these latter areas may be revised considerably but for the most part they represent a small part of the world's production. The Southern Hemisphere countries produced only about 3 percent of the world's total in 1950.

The present report shows a somewhat larger 1950-51 crop than was forecast in the preliminary summary released in this publication on November 6, 1950. The larger world figure is due largely to yields above earlier estimates in Western Germany, France, Austria, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and others in these generally northern areas. The best example occurred in Western Germany, the third largest potato producing country in the world where the yield per acre and production reached an alltime high in 1950. The latest estimate was 1 billion bushels compared to an estimate last fall of 955 million bushels. The United States outturn of 440 million was 13 million higher than previously estimated. Canada's production likewise rose from 94 million to 99 million bushels, and the United Kingdom's from 352 million bushels to 360 million.

Some countries have lower production than estimated last fall. These for the most part are in eastern and southern Europe, where drought conditions prevailed in 1950, and in Sweden, Japan and Chile. In Sweden an 8 percent reduction was reported, or from 66 million bushels last fall to 60 million in the latest report. Chile reported a severe

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

POTATOES: Acreage, yield and production in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1949-50

Continent and country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average		1949	1950 1/	Average		1949	1950 1/	Average		1949	1950 1/
	1935-39	1940-44			1935-39	1940-44			1935-39	1940-44		
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA												
Canada	539	547	521	517	124	136	174	191	66,571	74,495	90,697	98,895
El Salvador	1	1	2	2	22	33	50	50	22	32	100	100
Guatemala	9	10	10	10	41	46	47	47	383	463	467	470
Honduras	3	3	4	4	18	18	39	38	60	50	155	150
Mexico	37	60	71	82	69	65	70	60	2,547	3,892	4,960	4,960
Panama, Republic of	1	1	1	1	40	50	50	50	30	30	70	70
United States	3,033	2,844	1,913	1,847	117	137	215	238	355,504	388,765	411,565	439,500
Bermuda	2	2	1	1	40	45	45	45	79	90	40	40
Cuba	20	14	23	25	95	128	137	132	1,894	1,792	3,144	3,300
Dominican Republic	2	3	3	3	48	36	45	45	96	89	45	72
Jamaica	2	2	3	3	30	39	27	27	60	77	80	80
Total	3,649	3,487	2,552	2,495	117	135	200	219	427,246	469,775	511,323	547,637
EUROPE												
Albania	1	2	3	3	55	50	50	50	82	100	150	150
Austria	507	443	439	454	206	182	188	210	104,632	80,707	82,672	95,165
Belgium	2/ 383	258	220	242	2/ 305	291	342	351	2/116,872	75,030	75,219	84,826
Bulgaria	46	78	40	45	90	86	88	67	4,145	6,693	3,500	3,000
Czechoslovakia	1,873	1,761	1,404	1,500	198	146	167	183	371,415	257,865	234,610	275,000
Denmark	188	219	262	255	254	258	252	266	47,668	56,480	65,918	67,938
Finland	213	164	214	210	228	209	199	212	48,624	34,326	42,514	44,459
France	3,786	3,014	2,777	2,748	167	137	145	201	631,052	413,375	403,295	551,150
Germany:												
Western Zone	2,871	2,627	2,800	2,800	250	252	274	367	718,100	662,600	767,000	1,027,000
Eastern Zone	2,000	1,900	2,000	2,000	250	266	179	240	501,000	505,000	358,000	480,000
Greece	53	54	88	85	100	60	165	152	5,308	3,218	14,498	12,879
Hungary	729	896	680	680	109	109	103	66	79,637	97,657	70,000	45,000
Iceland	2	2	2	2	142	150	128	184	284	435	257	367
Ireland (Eire)	328	408	350	337	300	293	287	317	98,288	119,713	100,509	106,773
Italy	993	1,046	964	947	97	93	100	92	96,433	97,283	95,991	87,553
Luxembourg	42	27	20	20	189	205	148	150	7,929	5,522	2,968	3,000
Malta	9	6	7	7	118	85	70	69	1,104	508	490	480
Netherlands	320	448	433	410	315	308	391	363	100,744	137,987	169,209	148,878
Norway	127	175	144	146	259	247	280	281	32,830	43,158	40,370	41,006
Poland	6,800	6,500	6,272	6,400	205	181	181	178	1,397,000	1,176,000	1,135,390	1,140,000
Portugal	77	114	205	233	270	248	142	153	20,755	28,325	29,041	35,682
Romania	381	493	440	450	126	112	91	67	48,073	55,355	40,000	30,000
Spain	1,125	1,090	882	882	152	127	107	117	170,977	138,676	93,974	102,881
Sweden	326	346	333	322	204	208	190	188	66,631	72,100	63,188	60,443
Switzerland	118	172	131	137	221	289	215	322	26,126	49,750	28,145	44,092
United Kingdom	720	1,213	1,308	1,235	254	263	258	291	182,859	318,976	337,307	359,781
Yugoslavia	699	727	771	770	89	105	97	65	62,026	76,042	75,000	50,000
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	24,717	24,183	23,189	23,320	200	187	187	210	4,940,594	4,512,881	4,329,215	4,897,503
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	20,203	21,000	23,400	23,400	134	133	120	124	2,713,054	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,900,000

ASIA												
Cyprus	6	7	9	9	148	114	141	144	958	843	1,334	1,300
Israel 3/	1	4	3	4	84	234	250	250	84	938	1,000	900
Lebanon	4/	4/	12	11	4/	4/	122	107	4/	4/	1,470	1,176
Syria	5/ 17	5/ 13	9	9	5/ 89	5/ 100	117	102	5/ 1,531	5/ 1,311	1,066	919
Turkey	135	176	166	186	49	62	92	120	6,645	10,946	15,230	22,238
Japan	388	468	566	466	165	151	164	138	64,103	70,876	92,643	64,157
North Korea	221	261	260	260	77	69	65	62	17,097	17,937	17,000	16,000
South Korea	47	82	119	120	95	70	65	58	4,447	5,763	7,780	7,000
Indonesia	27	14	18	18	72	73	56	56	1,941	1,025	1,000	1,000
Philippines, Republic of	1	1	1	1	70	70	70	70	9	8	8	8
Total	843	1,026	1,163	1,084	115	107	119	106	96,815	109,647	138,531	114,698
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	311	472	529	514	85	93	79	107	26,523	43,741	41,887	55,115
Brazil	168	219	366	370	94	82	74	74	15,775	17,973	27,180	27,500
Chile	121	132	122	127	129	129	137	95	15,622	17,047	16,695	12,125
Colombia	167	221	262	250	81	67	64	58	13,467	14,786	16,534	16,000
Ecuador	62	62	62	60	78	66	25	67	4,827	4,092	1,521	4,000
Peru	400	347	491	482	75	69	97	95	30,157	24,045	47,766	45,929
Uruguay	18	25	27	29	63	54	54	60	1,135	1,345	1,467	1,727
Venezuela	15	15	12	12	24	37	51	54	367	551	610	650
Total	1,262	1,493	1,871	1,844	85	83	82	88	107,873	123,580	153,660	163,046
AFRICA												
Algeria	44	37	48	50	105	93	138	161	4,627	3,453	6,605	8,063
Belgian Congo	3	6	7	7	110	51	71	71	288	313	500	500
Egypt	10	21	36	36	181	143	208	208	1,813	3,010	7,496	7,500
Eritrea	1	2	2	2	36	30	38	38	6	59	75	75
Madagascar	31	29	55	50	52	61	37	66	1,615	1,764	2,049	3,307
Mauritius	1	1	1	1	131	75	139	130	31	24	132	130
Mozambique	2	2	1	1	78	86	120	120	78	91	120	120
Nigeria and Cameroons	2	2	1	1	30	37	40	40	21	54	40	40
Southern Rhodesia	3	4	4	4	81	101	100	100	254	376	400	400
Tunisia	6	4	5	5	65	119	142	140	393	451	772	700
Union of South Africa	89	90	170	170	88	76	58	59	7,844	6,822	9,908	10,000
Total	192	198	330	327	88	83	85	94	16,970	16,417	28,097	30,835
OCEANIA												
Australia	114	159	132	130	113	129	168	169	12,900	20,581	22,213	22,000
New Zealand	21	23	18	18	221	198	207	233	4,651	4,554	3,733	4,200
Total	135	182	150	148	130	138	173	177	17,551	25,135	25,946	26,200
World total	51,001	51,569	52,655	52,618	163	156	152	165	8,320,103	8,057,435	7,986,772	8,679,919

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not comparable with later years as prewar years apparently include small farms and gardens. 3/ Jewish farming only. 4/ Included with Syria. 5/ Includes Lebanon.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years shown refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. The yields per acre for countries having a small production were calculated on the basis of unrounded estimates of acreage.

potato blight in 1950-51 which helped reduce the crop from 17 million bushels estimated last November to 12 by this spring. This is a reduction of 27 percent below the 1949-50 level and 29 percent and 22 percent below the wartime and prewar averages, respectively.

For the 70 countries as a whole the yield per acre in 1950 reached 165 bushels per acre and surpassed the prewar level by 2 million bushels. This slight increase is almost entirely a reflection of the marked increases in North America and Europe.

Yields per acre have declined in most of the other areas but these are minor producers. The 1950 yields in much of southern Europe were adversely affected by dry weather.

The acreage of potatoes has been declining in North America and to lesser extent in Europe in recent years. It has dropped from 3.6 million prewar to 2.5 million in 1950 in North America. In the United States it went down from 3.0 million to 1.8 million In Europe it declined from 24.7 million prewar to 23.3 in 1950. Acreage has increased markedly in some other parts of the world, particularly in the minor producing areas in Africa, South America and some parts of Asia. It has risen as much as 30 to 50 percent in these areas since prewar but it declined in 1950 to slightly below 1949.

Strenuous efforts have been made by the Governments of some eastern European countries to increase the acreage and production of potatoes. In other parts of the world--South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania--the very significant percentage increase of potato acreage in recent years signifies an important upward trend in the use of white potatoes as a human food. Generally potatoes are a minor item in the diet of these people.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD TRADE IN TOBACCO DECLINES IN 1950

World trade in unmanufactured tobacco in 1950 was about 5 percent below 1949 but 2 percent above the prewar, 1935-39, average. Exports from the principal countries totaled 1,173,261,000 pounds. This corresponds to 1,241,596,000 pounds in 1949 and 1,153,710,000 in 1935-39.

The 1950 decline primarily resulted from lower exports from the United States, Turkey, Greece, Dominican Republic, Algeria, and the Philippine Republic. However, declines in exports from these countries were partially offset by increased exports from Southern Rhodesia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, India, Honduras and other countries. The decline in 1950 exports is attributed to continued restrictions by most importing countries on the use of dollar exchange for the purchase of tobacco, continued efforts by many countries to increase the production and consumption of domestically grown tobaccos, and to lower demand in certain countries as a result of some stock accumulation in 1949.

World totals for the countries listed in the accompanying table show exports consistently above imports. This discrepancy results from a number of factors including reexports (which had not been shown as imports) in the export data, the omission from the tables of a number of countries which have a small trade and whose imports materially exceed exports, and the omission of relatively large imports into the Soviet Union for which data are not available.

Principal Exporting Countries: In 1950, the United States continued to be the leading exporting country. Exports for the year totaled 476,152,000 pounds or 4 percent below the 1949 level and comprised 41 percent of the world total as compared to 40 percent in 1949. The decline in total exports resulted primarily from smaller takings by the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Portugal, Belgium and China.

Of the total 1950 exports, flue-cured leaf accounted for 380,932,000 pounds or 80 percent of the total, compared with 379,939,000 pounds or 76 percent in 1949. Burley exports in 1950 totaled 37,521,000 pounds or 8 percent of the total unmanufactured tobacco exports, compared with 35,084,000 pounds or 7 percent in 1949. Exports of fire-cured leaf totaled 31,419,000 pounds in 1950 compared with 33,191,000 pounds in 1949.

For all of the Latin American tobacco-exporting countries combined exports in 1950 were slightly below the 1949 level. Increases from 1949 were reported, however, for Brazil and Honduras. The Dominican Republic, Colombia, Paraguay and Argentina all reported declines in total exports. Most of the Latin American exports went to western European countries.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: International trade, average 1935-39, annual 1949 and 1950

Continent and Country	Average 1935-39		1949 1/		1950 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	15,294	4,317	16,032	1,577	26,760	1,322
Costa Rica	-	40	-	63	66	80
El Salvador	23	495	-	2,126	-	2/ 2,000
Guatemala	-	68	-	411	-	465
Honduras	1,894	43	4,630	108	7,015	2/ 125
Mexico	215	210	159	1,733	600	2,700
Nicaragua	-	175	-	534	-	651
United States	420,797	71,274	498,198	87,932	476,152	89,521
Cuba	27,712	-	31,195	-	31,818	-
Dominican Republic	13,652	-	46,156	-	31,910	-
Total	479,587	76,622	596,370	94,484	574,321	96,864
EUROPE						
Austria	3/ 1,424	3/ 16,954	500	32,810	2/ 800	2/ 19,000
Belgium and Luxembourg	413	40,695	1,847	41,848	-	47,227
Bulgaria	59,396	-	4/ 30,000	-	4/ 20,000	-
Czechoslovakia	-	3/ 20,768	-	4/ 20,000	-	4/ 20,000
Denmark	490	20,206	2,014	25,463	1,158	30,515
Ireland	3/ 394	3/ 12,292	-	24,052	-	19,729
Finland	-	7,754	-	4,693	-	9,414
France	3/ 686	3/ 61,576	466	74,299	145	46,097
Germany	3/ 19	3/204,644	2/ 5/ 18	5/100,883	-	5/ 98,978
Greece	97,657	20	62,597	-	56,630	-
Hungary	19,162	3,106	2/ 5,000	2/ 2,400	4/ 4,000	4/ 2,400
Italy	12,927	5,253	14,650	8,280	20,897	9,056
Netherlands	3,249	67,349	4,883	68,030	2,222	61,017
Norway	-	6,602	-	9,568	-	8,225
Poland	3/ 149	3/ 18,404	-	2/ 10,000	-	4/ 8,000
Portugal	-	6,381	-	9,775	-	10,381
Spain	-	4/ 30,979	-	41,469	-	55,600
Sweden	153	14,829	-	15,474	-	18,100
Switzerland	-	15,795	-	21,636	11	22,761
United Kingdom	6/ 5,996	258,486	6/ 1,507	301,163	-	305,762
Yugoslavia	10,288	8,010	4/ 15,000	4/ 1,000	17,278	1,896
Total	212,403	820,103	138,482	812,843	123,141	794,158
ASIA						
Syria and Lebanon	2,762	112	10,087	1,010	6,568	1,887
Turkey	78,054	152	176,198	-	108,548	-
Ceylon	2,086	1,200	950	1,036	1,363	1,625
China	30,994	56,613	4/ 1,000	4/ 5,000	-	-
French Indochina	3/ 216	2,718	-	10,168	-	11,502
Hong Kong	7/	10,450		4/ 9,000	-	2/ 10,000
India	43,500	4,791	71,378	7,017	2/ 80,000	2/ 4,000

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: International trade, average 1935-39, annual 1949 and 1950

Continent and Country	Average 1935-39		1949 1/		1950 1/	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
ASIA (Cont'd)						
Japan	14,700	5,458	29	2,007	882	2,831
Indonesia	101,176	2,765	17,858	6,142	27,123	2/ 8,000
Philippine Republic	37,357	1,075	11,218	793	8,137	28,792
Thailand (Siam)	13	3,405	-	2,624	-	2,925
Total	310,858	88,739	288,718	44,797	232,621	71,562
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	180	16,878	2,200	17,417	2/ 770	2/ 9,000
Brazil	71,955	772	62,314	163	2/ 75,000	4/ 200
British Guiana	-	3/ 393	-	580	-	643
Chile	-	172	-	2/ 835	-	2/ 760
Colombia	6,472	3/ 138	9,900	-	7,130	520
Paraguay	7,747	202	9,806	-	7,800	-
Peru	-	212	-	213	-	2/ 600
Surinam	7/	7/	-	163	-	104
Uruguay	-	3,051	-	6,713	-	9,261
Total	86,354	21,818	84,220	26,084	90,700	21,088
AFRICA						
Algeria	24,979	7,482	28,573	7,180	23,677	8,512
French Morocco	-	3/ 3,921	-	5,190	-	5,426
Belgian Congo	-	4/ 1,000	-	5,000	-	2/ 3,200
Nyasaland	12,810	-	25.489	7/	2/ 25,000	7/
Egypt	-	13,014	-	29,707	-	28,245
Gold Coast	-	1,471	-	1,720	-	1,341
Madagascar	5,262	17	4,254	-	6,281	66
Northern Rhodesia	1,429	-	6,075	-	6,165	-
Southern Rhodesia	19,166	327	67,937	-	89,253	15
Tunisia	-	3/ 2,843	-	6,321	-	4/ 6,000
Union of South Africa	635	3,100	1,383	5,012	2,100	4,300
Total	64,281	33,175	133,711	60,130	152,476	57,105
OCEANIA						
Australia	114	21,537	95	22,190	2/ 2	20,315
New Zealand	113	3,027	-	5,902	-	4/ 7,000
Total	227	24,564	95	28,092	2	27,315
Total countries shown	1,153,710	1,065,021	1,241,596	1,066,430	1,173,261	1,068,092

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimated on the basis of data available for 6 months or more of the year. 3/ Less than a 5 year average. 4/ Approximated from unofficial information. 5/ Western Germany only; data for Eastern Germany not available. 6/ Reexports. 8/ Not available.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers and other information.

The Oriental-type tobacco-producing countries of Southeastern Europe and the Near East reported considerably lower export totals in 1950 than in 1949. Turkey and Greece's 1950 exports were 38 and 9 percent lower, respectively, than in 1949. Exports from Bulgaria were reported unofficially to be still substantially below the prewar level, but Yugoslavia's 1950 exports were 68 percent above the 1935-39 average.

Unmanufactured tobacco exports from the Far Eastern Countries increased slightly during 1950 but are still far below the prewar average. Increases were reported for Indonesia, Japan, India and Ceylon. Indonesian exports for 1950 were 52 percent above 1949 but still 73 percent below the 1935-39 average. Japanese exports totaled 882,000 pounds in 1950 compared with 29,000 pounds in 1949; however, this is far below the prewar average of 14,700,000 pounds.

Principal Importing Countries: The United Kingdom's 1950 imports totaled 305,762,000 pounds which was larger than the imports for any other country and was 29 percent of the total imports shown in the accompanying table. Imports in 1949 were 301,163,000 pounds as compared with 280,775,000 pounds in 1948. Imports of United States leaf by the United Kingdom accounted for 47 percent of the country's 1950 total compared with 51 percent in 1949 and 61 percent in 1948.

Imports in 1949 into Western Germany, which ranks second in total imports of unmanufactured tobacco, are placed at 98,978,000 pounds or about 2 percent below the 1949 total of 100,978,000 pounds. The United States, the third most important importing country took 89,521,000 pounds in 1950. This was about 2 percent above 1949 and 6 percent above 1948.

All Other Leading Importing Countries: Imports in 1950 exceeded 1949 in the following countries: Belgium and Luxembourg, Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Syria and Lebanon, Ceylon, Indochina, Japan, Philippine Republic, Thailand, Uruguay, and Mexico. Decreases were reported for Austria, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, India, and Argentina. --By C. E. Dobbins, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH [1]

World soybean production during 1950 is estimated at an all-time high of 631 million bushels on the basis of information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Production was about one-fifth greater than in 1949 and surpassed the previous high of 1948 by

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[1] A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agricultural Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

68 million bushels. Record crops were harvested in the United States and Canada, and production in China is believed to have been near-average. About 93 percent of the 1950 world soybean output was produced in the United States, China, and Manchuria.

Canada harvested 3,039,000 bushels of soybeans from 142,000 acres, representing an increase of one-sixth from 1949. Acreage--all in Ontario Province--increased by more than one-third, primarily from the use of newly-developed soybean varieties that are adaptable to central and eastern Ontario in addition to the primary area in the southwestern part of the Province. It was estimated that 70 percent of the soybean acreage was planted to these new Canadian varieties. The widespread growing of soybeans also was stimulated by better prices and more general use of combines.

Continued expansion of soybean acreage in Canada will depend on the competitive position of this crop in relation to the crops which it would displace.

The United States produced 287,010,000 bushels of soybeans from 13,291,000 acres last year. Output was at an all-time high, exceeding the previous record crop of 1948 by one-fourth. Soybean production has increased tremendously during the last 10 years with the 1950 output over 5 times the prewar average. Last year's bumper crop came as a result of a large acreage harvested for beans and a relatively high yield of 21.6 bushels per acre. This yield, however, was well below the record of 22.7 bushels harvested in 1949.

This year's prospective plantings for soybeans grown alone for all purposes were indicated at 13.8 million acres as of March 1. If the same proportion of the total acreage is harvested for beans as in the last 2 years, the acreage for beans would be about 12.1 million acres. If this acreage is realized and the 1945-49 average yields are attained, the 1951 production of beans would be about 233 million bushels.

The Government will support 1951-crop soybeans at $2.45 a bushel or 90 percent of the January 15 parity price. This is 39 cents higher than the national average support price for the 1950 crop, which had been based on 80 percent of the September 1, 1950, parity price.

The severe drought in the Balkan countries, where the bulk of the European soybeans is produced, is believed to have reduced output sharply. Italian production also decreased--from 52,000 bushels in 1949 to 29,000 in 1950.

Turkey harvested 73,000 bushels of soybeans last year, larger than the previous year's outturn by 23,000 and twice the prewar average.

SOYBEANS: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, average 1935-39, annual 1947-50 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	1950 3/	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	1950 3/	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	1950 3/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada 4/	10	61	94	104	142	20.7	18.2	19.4	25.1	21.4	4/ 207	1,110	1,824	2,605	3,039
United States 5/	3,042	11,212	10,430	10,156	13,291	18.5	16.4	21.4	22.7	21.6	56,167	183,558	223,006	230,897	287,010
EUROPE															
Bulgaria	34	75	-	-	-	12.1	5.1	-	-	-	416	385	-	-	-
Hungary 6/	7	8	6	-	-	16.9	10.1	15.1	-	-	6/ 125	81	90	-	-
Italy	7/	7	5	3	2	12.1	20.9	21.9	18.3	17.5	4/ 1	150	107	52	29
Rumania 4/	49	-	-	-	-	9.5	-	-	-	-	4/ 463	-	-	-	-
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 6/	607	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6/ 5,805	-	-	-	-
ASIA															
Turkey 6/	1	5	5	5	5	29.0	10.8	15.3	10.6	14.9	6/ 37	55	71	50	73
China proper (22 provinces)	12,411	11,641	11,309	11,762	-	16.7	17.3	18.6	15.2	-	207,666	201,322	210,820	179,200	-
Manchuria	8,992	6,662	-	5,500	-	16.8	17.9	-	12.0	-	151,294	119,059	-	66,000	-
Japan 4/	812	607	584	648	615	15.4	11.8	13.8	13.8	19.9	12,499	7,161	8,085	8,928	12,254
Taiwan 4/	17	19	50	-	-	8.9	18.8	9.1	-	-	4/ 151	364	457	-	-
Korea 8/ 4/	1,921	568	487	658	-	10.0	8.2	10.1	10.0	-	17,654	4,666	4,924	6,654	-
Indonesia 9/	889	700	900	872	-	10.9	9.6	10.9	11.2	-	9,731	6,719	9,847	9,737	-
AFRICA															
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	97	49	31
Union of South Africa	-	7 10/	13 10/	13	-	-	6.6	5.0	5.3	-	-	44	67	48	40
World total 11/	29,100	33,240	31,700	31,550	36,360	-	-	-	-	-	463,900	537,420	563,200	518,750	631,460

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest. Southern Hemisphere crops which are harvested in the early part of the year are combined with those of the Northern Hemisphere harvested the latter part of the same year. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Acreage harvested for beans. 6/ One year only. 7/ Less than 500 acres. 8/ Beginning with 1947 figures represent South Korea only. 9/ Java and Madura only prior to 1948. 10/ Planted acreage. 11/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries, except as noted.

Soybean output in China and Manchuria may have increased from the 1949 harvests of 179 million and 66 million bushels, respectively. Sizeable quantities of beans have been shipped to Western Europe from Manchuria.

Japan's production in 1950 amounted to over 12 million bushels, greater by 3 million bushels than in 1949 and the largest in a decade.

Reported increases in soybean plantings in Indonesia last year indicate that production probably surpassed the 9.7 million bushels harvested the previous year.

Thailand's crop amounted to 400,000 bushels compared with the prewar production of about 230,000 bushels.

Brazil's output decreased from a high of 1.2 million bushels in 1949 to about 980,000 last year.

Soybeans are grown on a limited scale in Africa with production still in the experimental stage in many areas. Decreases from 1949 were reported in several countries. Contrary to earlier estimates, Tanganyika's harvest was down from 49,000 bushels in 1949 to 31,000 last year; Uganda reported a crop of 75,000 bushels against 117,000 in 1949; and production in the Union of South Africa decreased slightly to 40,000 bushels from 48,000 the previous year.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILS

U.K. MAINTAINS HIGH LEVEL OF FAT AND OIL SUPPLIES 1/

The United Kingdom imported 1,656,000 short tons of oilseeds, fats, and oils on an oil equivalent basis in 1950--just about the same as in 1949--according to William Kling, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London. Excluding whale oil production on United Kingdom

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1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

ships, net imports (oil equivalent) totaled 1,540,000 short tons in both 1949 and 1950. This is slightly above the 1938 level of imports when domestic production, including whale oil, ran about 100,000 tons higher than in 1950.

Total requirements at the present rate of consumption are about 1,870,000 short tons per year. Domestic production, including the catch of United Kingdom whaling ships in foreign waters, accounts for some 185,000 tons. Thus the United Kingdom is dependent on imports for 90 percent of its supplies. This dependence on outside sources increases to more than 95 percent if the oils from United Kingdom whaling ships are classified as imports. In 1949-50 domestic slaughter fat and lard production yielded only 55,000 tons, followed by butter at 21,000 tons. The only other domestic sources were small quantities of linseed oil and herring oil.

There were some rather pronounced shifts in the import pattern as between 1949 and 1950. Total imports of oilseeds fell from 1.43 million tons to 1.32 million tons, partly because of a sharp decline in flaxseed imports from India and Uruguay. British West Africa maintained heavy but slightly reduced shipments of palm kernels, amounting to 508,200 tons in 1950 compared with 513,700 tons in 1949. Palm kernels hold first place in the imported oil seed tonnage. British West Africa was also the principal supplier of peanuts but reduced its rate of shipment of shelled nuts from 383,900 tons in 1949 and 356,400 tons in 1950. Unshelled nuts were also down slightly. Soybean imports fell from 30,000 to 4,000 tons. The declines noted above were partially offset by increased imports of castor beans, copra and cottonseed.

Imports of processed oils rose from 487,000 to 552,000 tons. Increases occurred in castor oil, linseed oil, palm oil, sunflower oil and safflower oil. These increases were partially offset by a sharp reduction in coconut oil (Ceylon was virtually out of the United Kingdom market in 1950) and by small reductions in cottonseed oil, tung oil and olive oil. Palm oil accounted for nearly half the total imports of vegetable oils in 1949 and 1950. Imports of animal and marine fats, excluding butter and lard, but including production of United Kingdom whaling ships increased from 241,000 tons in 1949 to 259,000 in 1950. Butter imports rose from 355,000 to 377,000 tons with increased shipments from Denmark more than offsetting declines in shipments from Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands. Imports of lard dropped sharply from 38,500 to about 2,000 tons.

About 6 months supply of fats and oils is on hand in the United Kingdom according to trade sources, and forward purchases under firm contracts probably assure an additional supply for 5 or 6 months. Thus the present stock position is good and the government will endeavor to continue to maintain large stocks of fats and oils and oil-bearing materials as a part of an emergency stockpiling program. At the same time there is evidence of a "go slow" sentiment among United Kingdom buyers in the belief that world prices have swung too far on the high side and that substantial price declines may be in prospect.

ARGENTINA HAS FAVORABLE MARKETS FOR OILSEEDS AND OILS [1]

Most of Argentina's exportable flaxseed and linseed oil is already committed for shipment and only minimum carry-over stocks are expected at the end of 1951, according to C.A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. This will mean a sharp reduction in 1952 exports unless the flaxseed area is doubled this season. An increase of this magnitude is not considered likely.

The sunflower seed crop has progressed fairly well in spite of cool weather and the Trade believes production may approach 1.2 million short tons, based on early harvest reports. However, much of the crop is late and production could be reduced considerably if killing frosts occur before mid-May. Assuming the present outlook for sunflower seed, cottonseed and peanuts, the maximum production of edible vegetable oils in prospect for this season is 385,000 short tons. About 200,000 short tons will be needed in Argentina, and the Argentine Trade Promotion Institute (IAPI) is already selling against the balance, finding a brisk foreign demand at favorable prices.

CHILE'S FATS AND OILS SITUATION IN 1950

Chile had available approximately 60,600 short tons of animal and vegetable fats and oils during the consumption year April 1, 1950-March 31, 1951, according to P.M. Davenport, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Santiago. About 35,000 tons or 58 percent of the total consisted of vegetable oils, mainly edible.

Although production of edible oils from domestic seed reached a record level during 1950, Chile imported about one-fifth of its edible oil requirements from foreign sources. The Government has continued its policy of subsidizing Chilean oil processors and consumers through favorable exchange rates on imported semi-refined oils, but crushers have been permitted this year to raise prices paid to farmers for sunflower seed, and some increase in the relatively low ceiling prices of edible oils may be authorized.

The final official estimate of the sunflower area for the 1950-51 crop shows plantings of 134,300 acres, a 9 percent increase over the 122,950 acres harvested in 1950. The cold and rainy weather during September-December delayed seedings and germination, and substantial reseedings were said to have been necessary in the south central zone. The first official production estimate places the harvest at 73,850 short tons, a 3 percent reduction from last year's record crop.

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The processors of sunflower seed oil are in disagreement with official estimates of sunflower seed plantings and production. They believe that about 100,000 tons of sunflower seed were harvested in 1949-50, or about one-third more than the official figure. They point out that the quantity of seed available to the 3 largest oil plants alone exceeded the official estimate. Furthermore, crushers believe that the 1950-51 plantings have been lower this year than last because of the unfavorable weather, the demands of rotations to other crops, and the uncertain price situation early in the season. They estimate this year's crop at about 96,000 tons.

The first official forecast places the 1950-51 flaxseed crop at 166,700 bushels from 11,740 acres, representing a 10 percent increase in production but a 9 percent decline in area in comparison with last season. Crushers do not believe that the seed output will be as great as official figures indicate. However, they are of the opinion that both acreage and production have increased somewhat. The sharply higher prices of flaxseed, linseed oil and flax fiber during the latter half of 1950, according to the crushers, encouraged growers to increase their plantings.

Hempseed production is estimated officially at 3,870 tons from 8,630 acres. This is a 17 percent increase in production and a 10 percent increase in acreage from last year. The larger area is attributed to the more encouraging outlook for fiber.

Over the past 30 years the Government has encouraged the planting of olive groves, not only to increase the domestic supply of vegetable oils, but also to give farmers in the drier areas an additional crop which does not require as much water as irrigated crops now grown. Official sources estimate that there are now 24,710 acres planted in olives, indicating about 1 million trees of which about 350,000 are in production. Olive production probably exceeds 5,000 tons a year.

An estimated 1,000 tons of edible oil were believed to have been extracted from rapeseed, grape pits, and rice hulls during the crushing year ending March 31, 1951.

Oil crushers and refiners report that 6,060 tons of semi-refined sunflower seed oil were imported into Chile from Argentina in 1950. Oil refiners contracted to purchase 3,860 tons of semi-refined oil for delivery during January-April 1951. This includes 2,750 tons of sunflower oil from Argentina, 550 tons of soybean oil from the United States and 550 tons of peanut oil from the Union of South Africa. Crushers believe that about 9,000 tons will be purchased for delivery during November 1951-March 1952.

Lard production in Chile in 1950 is unofficially estimated at 4,960 tons. Tallow and grease output is believed to amount to approximately 13,000 tons a year. Only small quantities of edible animal fats and products of fats were imported in 1950.

INDONESIAN PALM OIL AND KERNEL PRODUCTION BELOW EARLIER FORECASTS

Indonesia's production of palm oil and palm kernels during 1950, although approximately at 1949 levels, was far below earlier forecasts, reports Willard O. Brown, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Jakarta.

The oil palm producing area in Sumatra is now estimated at about 150,000 acres, an increase of 10 to 15 percent during the year. Production was expected to increase toward the end of the year, but labor troubles and unsettled conditions reduced the output. Palm oil output may have reached 132,000 short tons in 1950, or nearly 20 percent less than expected, and palm kernel production may have amounted to 33,000 tons or 78 percent of the volume forecast earlier in 1950.

As a result of the various factors which lowered actual output below potential possibilities, exports of palm oil and palm kernels were, respectively, 5 and 16 percent below 1949. Palm oil exports of 107,029 tons were purchased principally by the Netherlands-62,904 tons, and the United Kingdom-32,531, but smaller shipments also were made to Western Germany and Japan. Shipment of 822 tons to the United States was less than one-tenth the quantity consigned to this country in 1949. Exports of palm kernels totaled 26,560 tons. The Netherlands took 21,680 tons or more than double the 1949 tonnage while the 4,880 tons purchased by Western Germany were only 50 percent of the volume taken in the previous year.

Information is no longer available as to stocks held in producing areas, but in view of current trends in production and exports it is likely that stock levels decreased somewhat by the end of the year.

The outlook for palm oil and kernels is not bright. Labor troubles during the harvest period and the slowdown in loading after enforced termination of the harbor strike at Belawan by military authorities in November have reduced production, and carelessness and neglect have affected adversely the quality of current output so that it has not always attained recognized standards. The Trade also reports concern about the long time effects of neglected weeding, trimming and other cultivation of palm groves.

GREECE'S OILSEED PRODUCTION UP 50 PERCENT FROM 1949

Greece's 1950 oilseed production, excluding olives, is now estimated at 76,280 short tons, exceeding last year's output of 51,000 tons by 50 percent, according to H. K. Nelson, American Embassy, Athens. Cottonseed, the most important oilseed, increased 62 percent over 1949--from 34,170 to 55,665 tons. This was the largest cotton crop ever produced in Greece. The increase was due to favorable weather, limited pest and fungus damage, improved cultivation methods, and the use of improved seed. Favorable weather also increased sesame output in 1950--from 9,648 tons to 11,575 tons. Sunflower seed production of 3,300 tons was an increase of 550 tons from 1949, while peanut production of 2,425 tons more than doubled the quantity of the previous year. Tobacco seed output remained at 3,300 tons.

Increasing emphasis is being placed on the production of edible oilseeds grown only for oil, such as sesame and sunflower. Expanded production would tend to offset the need for imports of vegetable oils when olive oil supplies are short or when olive oil prices rise, as has been the policy in the past. In general, however, growers are reluctant to plant oilseed crops because of the small return.

Due to the short 1950 olive oil crop (the smallest in the history of recorded olive oil production in Greece) and subsequent price rises, the Government decided to import 10,470 tons of edible vegetable oils from the United States. Of this, about 1,050 tons had been imported up to the end of 1950.

CHILE'S WHALE OIL PRODUCTION UP IN 1950

Chile's production of whale and sperm oil in 1950 totaled 4,940 short tons, according to P. M. Davenport, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Santiago. This quantity was 35 percent greater than the 3,660 tons produced in 1949 and slightly more than the 1948 production of 4,930 tons. Sperm oil production in 1950 made up more than two-thirds of the total output and amounted to 3,520 tons compared with the 1,420 tons of whale oil.

Compania Industrial, a large fats and oils concern, is the only Chilean organization now engaged in whaling operations. It is understood that Macaya y Compania, a much smaller firm formerly engaged in whaling, has retired from the business. The Compania Industrial maintains a fleet of 5 small whaling vessels which operate from its land station at Quintay, near Valparaiso. Since the company does not possess a factory ship, whaling operations are limited to the coastal waters of Central Chile.

Whaling operations of the Compania Industrial were begun during the war to provide substitute material for tallow and other scarce fats. All of the sperm oil and practically all of the whale oil produced is used by the Company in the manufacture of soap.

Chile sent a representative to the 1950 International Whaling Conference held at Oslo, Norway during July and August. The Chilean delegate requested an amendment of the International Whaling Agreement to permit the catching of baleen whales beyond the 6-months period allowed and to permit the establishment of new land bases for whaling operations. The representatives of the Compania Industrial say that their operations from shore installations are not equivalent to the non-stop operations of whaling fleets equipped with factory ships. Similarly, additional land stations, if permitted, would only take the place of factory ships which Chile cannot afford to purchase. If the season of baleen whales were extended, Chile would undertake to restrict its catch of these whales to a certain number of units.

PERU'S VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTION INCREASES IN 1950

Peru's 1950 vegetable oil production amounted to 20,500 short tons, a substantial increase over the 1949 and 1948 production of 17,460 and 16,725 tons, respectively, according to Roy O. Westley, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Lima. The 1950 recorded output consisted entirely of cottonseed oil of which all but 2,780 tons was for edible purposes.

Production of sunflower seed oil was so low in 1950 that no estimate was made of commercial crushings. Output of this oil dropped from 395 tons in 1948 to 255 tons in 1949.

The 1950 imports of all types of vegetable fats and oils were almost double those of 1949 when imports were curtailed. They consisted chiefly of edible oils and amounted to 3,400 tons, more than a third greater than the 2,110 tons imported in 1949. Tallow, refined lard, and butter made up most of the 12,800 tons of fats and oils imported in 1950. Export of any type of oil or fat is prohibited in Peru as long as any local need exists.

Consumption of vegetable fats and oils in Peru is normally about 22,000 tons per year. In 1949 when imports were curtailed, the total quantity available for consumption was just under 20,000 tons. During 1950, with a larger local production of cottonseed oil and with increased imports, the total available supply rose to approximately 23,200 tons.

Production of vegetable fats and oils during 1951 is not expected greatly to exceed that of last year. It is probable, however, that due to high cotton prices, there will be a somewhat larger harvest of cotton and cottonseed. The production of oil from sunflower seed, castor beans, and flax is not expected to reach commercial proportions.

The market for vegetable oils and animal fats and oils continues to be good. With the removal of price controls and a relaxation of import restrictions, imports in 1951 probably will be greater than in the preceding year.

CANADA'S OILSEEDS AND ANIMAL FATS PRODUCTION ROSE IN 1950

Canada's production of oilseeds in 1950 was substantially greater than in 1949, according to Philip C. Habib, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa, Canada. At the same time output of animal fats was slightly above 1949.

Flaxseed production in 1950, totaling 4.5 million bushels, was twice the quantity produced in 1949. However, this was much less than during the war and immediate postwar years. Canada's imports of flaxseed for crushing were substantial in 1950 for the first time in several years. Additional imports in 1951--perhaps from 0.6 to 1.0 million bushels--are expected to provide crushers with sufficient materials until the 1951 crop becomes available. Production of flaxseed this year is expected to be considerably greater than in 1950. If plantings should total the expected minimum of 1.0 million acres, output is likely to reach 7.5 million bushels--assuming the long-term average yield.

Soybean output exceeded 3.0 million bushels in 1950, a gain of one-sixth from 1949. This was nearly 4 times the quantity produced in 1945 and the annual output has set a new record in each of the last 5 successive years. Soybean oil production in 1950 also reached a record level because imports of soybeans--virtually all from the United States--exceeded 4.0 million bushels, a new record. The increased production of soybean oil has come about because of the greatly expanded output of margarine and shortening in Canada. It is estimated that 90 percent of all the soybean oil produced is consumed in this form, the remaining 10 percent in paint. Production of soybeans in Canada is expected to increase still further in 1951. And even though domestic production should increase markedly beyond this year, it is not expected to be sufficient to meet domestic requirements. Thus, Canada is likely to be a continuing market for United States soybeans.

Sunflower seed production last year was only 5,200 short tons, a decline of roughly 60 percent from 1949. This was the smallest volume produced since 1945. Spring floods in Manitoba, where production is concentrated, forced a small planting. Production of sunflower seed in 1951 is expected to be substantially greater than last year with the possibility that the area planted will approximate the 60,000 acres of 1949.

Rapeseed output in Canada in 1951, unusually small, totaled only 210 tons. Consequently, no oil has been produced. The seed is being held primarily for seed use although some crushing will take place in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, when the plant there is re-opened. It is possible that rapeseed production in Saskatchewan will be revived this year because there is a good export market for the oil and it appears that a return to commercial production and crushing would be profitable.

Production in 1950 of animal fats--that is, lard and tallow--totaled 195.0 million pounds, an increase of nearly 4 percent from 1949.

Lard production in Canada last year is estimated at 109.7 million pounds, a postwar peak, and one-eighth greater than in 1949. Imports of lard into Canada, almost all from the United States, exceeded 13.0 million pounds while exports totaled only 126,000 pounds. A substantial increase in lard output in 1951 appears likely.

Tallow production last year is estimated at 85.3 million pounds, a decline of 4 percent from 1949. Imports of tallow into Canada--all from the United States--totaled about 3.6 million pounds, an increase from 1949 but still far below previous years. Exports of 3.1 million pounds of tallow, slightly below the tonnage in 1949, was still above the postwar average. A slight increase in the production of tallow is in prospect for 1951.

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

YUGOSLAVIA'S UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO EXPORTS HIGHER; IMPORTS LOWER

Yugoslavia's 1950 unmanufactured tobacco exports were 68 percent above the prewar (1935-39) average according to the American Embassy, Belgrade. Imports of leaf for 1950 were 76 percent below the prewar average.

The country's 1950 unmanufactured tobacco exports totaled 17.3 million pounds as compared to 10.3 million pounds during the prewar (1935-39) period. No official foreign trade data are available from 1939 through 1949. France, the most important 1950 export outlet took 7.0 million pounds or 40 percent of Yugoslavia's unmanufactured tobacco, Western Germany, the second most important outlet, took 2.4 million pounds or 14 percent. Austria, ranking third, took 2.2 million pounds or 13 percent; the Netherlands, fourth with 1.9 million pounds or 11 percent, and Argentina fifth with 1.0 million pounds, or 6 percent. The remaining 2.8 million pounds were taken in varying quantities by numerous other countries including, the United States, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden, Argentina, Australia and others.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 totaled 1.9 million pounds as compared to the prewar (1935-39) annual average of 10.3 million pounds. All leaf imports in 1950 came from India.

GREECE'S TOBACCO EXPORTS LOWER; TOBACCO PRODUCTION REVISED UPWARD

Greece's 1950 unmanufactured tobacco exports were 10 percent below 1949, according to H. K. Nelson, American Embassy, Athens. A revised estimate places the 1950 leaf harvest 4 percent above earlier estimates.

The country's 1950 unmanufactured tobacco exports totaled 56.6 million pounds compared with 62.6 million pounds in 1949. Leaf exports in 1948 totaled 39.8 million pounds. Germany, the most important 1950 export outlet took 14.1 million pounds; The United States, second most important outlet, took 11.4 million pounds; France, ranking third, 6.7 million; Austria, fourth, 4.8 million; and Finland, fifth, 4.5 million pounds. The remaining 15.1 million pounds was taken in varying quantities by numerous other countries including Egypt, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. In addition to leaf, Greece exported 35,602 pounds of cigarettes.

A revised estimate of Greece's 1950 leaf harvest places the total at 127.6 million pounds from 253,278 acres compared with an earlier estimate of 122.3 million pounds from 251,795 acres. Estimated production for 1949 was 116.6 million pounds from 198,916 acres.

GUATEMALA'S COFFEE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS DECLINE

Guatemala's 1950-51 exportable coffee production now is estimated at around 775,000 bags, substantially lower than preliminary forecasts and about 14 percent below the revised estimate of 900,000 bags for export from the 1949-50 crop, according to D. M. Crawford, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Guatemala City. This compares with 980,000 bags for export from the 1948-49 crop and an annual average prewar (1935-39) exportable output of 922,000 bags.

Various reasons have been given for the smaller 1950-51 coffee crop, such as excessive rainfall, and the carry-over effect from storm damage in the fall of 1949. Some observers believe it was the natural result of large crops during the past several years. It has been noted that the output of the larger coffee farms is going down because of the old age of the coffee trees.

While the Guatemalan coffee trade generally agrees that the 1950-51 coffee crop was smaller than in 1949-50, there is considerable divergence of opinion as to the amount which will be exported during the current marketing year, estimates ranging from 675,000 bags to 810,000 bags.

The most uncertain factor in coffee export prospects for 1950-51 is what quantity the Department of National Farms may offer. The Department of National Farms operates 94 nationalized or intervened coffee farms. It sometimes holds coffee for 2 years before public sale; therefore, some of the coffee offered in 1950-51 actually dates from the 1949-50 crop. The best estimate appears to be that National Farms will offer about 140,000 bags for sale during the present season, and this amount, added to 630,000 bags from private farms, gives a total of 770,000 bags to be exported during 1950-51.

GUATEMALA: Exports of green coffee, 1950 with comparison 1/

Destination	Average 1935-39	1948	1949 2/	1950 2/
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Western Hemisphere				
United States	392	750	843	834
Canada	8	18	25	11
Other	3	--	--	--
Total	403	768	868	845
Europe:				
Italy	9	9	14	22
Belgium and Luxembourg	4	14	21	18
Netherlands	63	1	7	16
Switzerland	9	5	8	5
Germany	171	3/	1	1
Other	116	9	--	--
Total	372	38	51	64
Africa, Asia, and Oceania	2	--	--	1
GRAND TOTAL	774	806	919	910

1/ Bags of 132.28 pounds each. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 1,000 bags.

U.S. Foreign Service Reports.

Although exports of coffee from Guatemala in 1950 declined slightly from 1949, they were higher than in any other year since 1930. In 1950, Guatemala exported a total of 910,000 bags, compared with exports of 919,000 bags in 1949, 806,000 bags in 1948, a prewar annual average of 774,000 bags, and exports of 950,000 bags in 1930.

As usual, the United States was the principal market for Guatemala's coffee in 1950. Exports to the United States amounted to 834,000 bags or about 92 percent of total coffee shipments from Guatemala in 1950. About the same proportion of Guatemala's total coffee exports went to the United States in each of the other postwar years. In prewar years, however, shipments to the United States accounted for only about 50 percent of Guatemala's total coffee exports. Shipments to Europe have shown a steady increase in recent years. In 1950, Guatemala exported 64,000 bags of coffee to Europe, compared with 51,000 bags in 1949 and 38,000 bags in 1948. Principal European destinations in 1950 were Italy, Belgium-Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Germany was the leading European market for Guatemalan coffee in prewar years, with shipments to Germany averaging 171,000 bags annually. In 1950, Guatemala exported only 1,266 bags of coffee to Germany.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

THE CURRENT PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS SITUATION IN CUBA

During the first quarter 1951, Cuban commercial hog slaughter approximated 54,000 head, compared with 60,000 head during the fourth quarter 1950, according to J.R. Johnstone, Vice Consul, American Embassy, Havana. Packer-type carcass weight totaled about 5.0 million pounds.

The curtailed slaughter during February and March was largely seasonal, resulting from a tightening supply picture as the effects of the dry season became increasingly evident. It is estimated that 80 percent of the commercial marketings during the quarter were sold as fresh pork. No actual shortage of hogs is apparent, but producers have increased prices to the point where local processing firms find it difficult to continue operations. Furthermore, there is a tendency for hogs to stay on the farm to satisfy home demand for meat during the dry season.

Based on a first quarter kill of 5 million pounds, importation of around 7.4 million pounds, and allowing for carry in and out, Cuban pork consumption (excluding farm consumption) during the first quarter 1951 amounted to roughly 11.5 million pounds. Of this amount about one-fourth was consumed fresh and the remainder in the form of hams, salt pork and other processed meats. The urban population of Cuba shows a strong preference for United States hams and processed meats.

Cuban hog prices rose sharply during first quarter 1951. Whereas live hogs brought 17-18 cents per libra (1.014 pounds) on the Havana market in December 1950, they sold at 23 to 25 cents per libra in March 1951. These high prices discouraged large scale local pork processing because of the strong competition offered by United States processed meats. Consequently most hogs were marketed as fresh pork, where outside competition was nil.

In general, price trends on processed meats followed the same pattern as those on lard, expecting that the upward trend in February was less marked. United States smoked hams wholesaled locally at about 80 to 82 cents per libra early in the first quarter 1/. These prices averaged about 84 cents per libra in February and dropped back to 82 cents by late March. Locally-processed United States hams wholesaled at 2 to 6 cents per libra less than those processed in the United States, while Cuban hams sold at about 66 cents per libra in January and 68 cents during both February and March 1/. Cuban hams failed to follow the downward trend in March because of the high local price for live hogs.

The local pork processing industry operates on a marginal basis. Cubans generally prefer the higher quality imported products, and in the case of hams, local processors must undersell United States hams by 10 to 15 cents per libra, or their product will remain unsold. During the dry season hog prices always move upward, as the supply of fresh meat tightens. When, as at the present time, this is accompanied by a general downward trend in the price of imported pork products, local processors find it virtually impossible to continue operations.

Some overstocking was evident with respect to both hams and salt pork on April 1, 1951. Demand, especially for salt pork, has not been up to expectations. During first quarter 1951 Cuba imported from the United States approximately 7.4 million pounds of processed meats, consisting mainly of dry salt bellies or hams. Import requirements during second quarter 1951 are somewhat contingent upon the relationship between domestic and imported prices. Local pork processors could doubtless increase their production, if local market prices encouraged them to do so. Assuming no abrupt change in marketing conditions, it is probable that Cuba will import about 5.0 million pounds of processed meats during the second quarter. Because of the hotter weather, pork consumption is not likely to reach first quarter levels.

1/ Weights about 10-16 pounds.

CATTLE SITUATION IN KENYA, BRITISH EAST AFRICA

The number of cattle in Kenya is estimated at being upward of 5 million in native African areas and about 550,000 owned by Europeans. Small holdings by Indian and Arab owners are reported. The annual birth increment of cattle under favorable conditions is estimated to be 15-20 percent.

Kenya's cattle population figures are apt to give a distorted picture of its meat potential. The poor quality of the African stock, due to limited animal husbandry and overstocking of pastures, is coupled with the unwillingness of the African to sell. As a result Kenya is not realizing, either in quality or quantity, a meat output in line with the actual cattle population. Rinderpest also reduces the possibilities for operating livestock herds on an efficient basis.

Due to the failure this past year of the so-called "short rains," which normally fall during November and December, the greater part of the Colony is now suffering from drought conditions of varying severity, causing a rapid decrease in milk production. This condition is likely to be improved with the advent of the rainy season expected during April.

The Kenya Meat Commission is negotiating with the British Ministry of Agriculture for relaxation of the existing British ban on imports of beef and poultry from Kenya. Inquiries have been received from Palestine and Egypt for larger quantities of beef than the Commission will at first have available for export and negotiations with these countries are being kept open.

Top grade beef is being sold to ships at Mombasa and this trade which started with small quantities is becoming more important and successful. A year ago imports of Australian beef were dominating this trade. Supplies are going to the Belgian Congo by air and the Belgian Sabena Airways are studying the possibility of a special weekly airfreighter.

The widespread outbreaks of rinderpest which occurred during 1949 were followed in 1950 by secondary and tertiary waves of infection due to the spread of the disease among wild game, which in turn served to infect susceptible cattle wherever contact occurred. Although 22 European-owned farms were affected, in addition to 12 outbreaks in the native areas, the disease was in general confined to uninoculated calves, although there were 3 herds in which heavy mortality occurred among adult cattle which had not been immunized.

A notable advance in the control of rinderpest has been achieved by the introduction of a rabbit-adapted strain of rinderpest virus as a standard prophylactic and the availability of this cheap, and safe immunizing agent is believed to expedite the ultimate eradication of rinderpest from East Africa. New laboratories, isolated from the main Veterinary Research Laboratories at Kabete, have been built and provided with modern equipment for the preparation of the attenuated rinderpest virus vaccines, and the risks of any contamination of these vaccines with virulent strains have consequently been greatly reduced.

The Tsetse Survey and Control section of the Veterinary Department has expanded its activities; the distribution of the various species of tsetse fly in the Colony is now known with reasonable accuracy, and a comprehensive plan for the reclamation of tsetse-infested land is in operation.

ANGLO-ARGENTINE MEAT AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Argentine Government officially announced on April 23 the signing of an agreement with the United Kingdom for the sale of 200,000 long tons (448 million pounds) of meat at various prices, including 146 pounds sterling per long ton (18.25 U.S. cents per pound [1] for chilled beef, 130 pounds sterling (16.25 cents per pound) for lamb, 118 pounds sterling (14.75 cents per pound) and 126 pounds sterling (15.75 U.S. cents per pound) for 2 types of frozen beef, plus 30,000 tons (67 million pounds) of canned corned beef. The United Kingdom also will buy, during the 12 months period of the agreement, any additional quantity of carcass or canned meat offered, as well as all chilled meat offered during the remaining period of the 1949 agreement.

The United Kingdom will supply Argentina with 4 million tons of crude petroleum and fuel oil, 40,000 cubic meters of other petroleum derivatives, 500,000 tons of coal and 27,000 tons of tinplate. The United Kingdom will pay Argentina 6.25 million pounds sterling ($17,500,000) in adjusting the prices for meat shipped after the devaluation of the sterling, and 10.5 million pounds sterling ($29,400,000) in final liquidation of Argentine claims under the 1949 revaluation clause.

1/ Converted at the rate of U.S. $2.80 to one pound sterling.

VENEZUELA SETS CUSTOMS DUTY FOR LIVE POULTRY

The Gaceta Oficial number 23, 491 dated March 30, 1951 carries a joint resolution of Venezuela's Ministries of Finance and Agriculture establishing a new customs classification in which a customs duty of 20.5 cents per pound is set for mature live poultry.

This duty, like that on dressed poultry of 16.4 cents per pound and on poultry feeds of $45.00 per ton is for the protection of local industries against relatively efficient foreign competition. The unprotected consumer pays 75 cents per pound for local live birds, 95 cents per pound for imported frozen chickens, and $1.25 per pound for local dressed chickens.

MEXICO SUBSIDIZES IMPORTERS OF POWDERED MILK

As stated in the Diario Oficial of April 11, 1951, a subsidy has been granted to importers into Mexico of milk in powdered or tablet form. It is effective retroactively to March 15, 1951 and will probably be in force until December 31, 1951.

The subsidy, which applies to imports under 2 tariff fractions, is in the form of a reduction from duties now in force as shown in the following table:

Fraction No.	Amount of Duty 1/ (Pesos per kilo)	Amount of Subsidy (Pesos per kilo)	Net Duty (Pesos per kilo)
2/ 1.22.13	2.55	1.87	.68
3/ 1.22.14	1.255	.89	.365

1/ Prior to subsidy. 2/ In containers weighing up to 5 kilos. 3/ In containers weighing over 5 kilos.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

FRANCE INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION

The rice harvest of France in 1950 is estimated officially at 101 million pounds of rough rice, or more than twice the volume of the preceding year, according to Monroe McCown, Assistant Attache, American Embassy, Paris. Substantial increases in production have occurred every year since 1946, when only 5 million pounds were produced. Prior to that time rice cultivation in France was insignificant.

FRANCE: Rice production and trade,
average 1936-40, annual 1948-50

Year	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Production		Imports	Production plus imports
			Rough	In terms of milled		
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1936-40......	1	1,400	1.4	1	1/ 1,209	1,210
1948.......	11	2,000	22.0	14	76	90
1949.......	20	2,480	49.6	32	94	126
1950.......	28	3,621	101.4	66	184	250

1/ More than one-half used for animal feed.

Compiled from official sources.

The 1950 rice acreage of France is estimated at 28,000 acres compared with 2,000 acres in 1946, and a further increase is expected in 1950 - perhaps up to 39,000 acres. The development of the rice industry has been encouraged by the establishment of price levels that have been considered favorable in relation to prices of other farm products. No action has yet been taken to lower the fixed price of rice, and it now appears that France will continue to encourage the expansion of the acreage devoted to this crop.

Rice imports into France in 1950, although only a fraction of prewar, were about double those of a year earlier. Italy was the leading country of origin, followed by Indochina, Mexico, Chile, Madagascar and Brazil.

(See accompanying table on following page)

FRANCE: Rice imports, by country of origin,
1948-1950

Type and country of destination	1948	1949	1950		
			January-June	July - December	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Paddy and broken:					
Italy	1	25	19	51	70
Indochina	5	6	4	9	13
Others	1/	1	1	1/	1
Total	6	32	24	60	84
Brown rice:					
Indochina	61	39	21	8	29
Italy	2/	15	10	35	45
Mexico	2/	7	6	11	17
Chile	2/	0	3	3	6
Others	9	1	1	2	3
Total	70	62	41	59	100
Semolina:					
Indochina	13	2	1/	1	1
Total	89	96	65	120	185

1/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 2/ If any, included with "others."

Customs Bureau, Ministry of Finance, France

CANADIAN GRAIN STOCKS LARGER

Stocks of Canadian grain in all positions at the end of March were substantially above those of March 31, 1950, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of the 4 grains reported, wheat, oats, barley, and rye, aggregated 5.7 million short tons more than stocks a year earlier. Substantial increases are noted for wheat, oats and barley, with little change in the rye stocks. Wheat and oats together account for 80 percent of the increase over a year ago. The increase in grain stocks reflects the larger production in 1950, including substantial quantities of grain below usual export grades.

Canadian wheat in all positions is estimated at 353 million bushels, about 40 percent larger than on March 31, 1950. Of that amount, 161 million bushels remained on farms, compared with 112 million bushels on farms a year earlier. Farm stocks show a total of 35 percent of the 1950 crop still on farms, compared with 30 percent of the total remaining on farms a year ago. Farm stocks in the Prairie Provinces totaled 152 million bushels, with the Provincial distribution in million bushels as follows: Saskatchewan 100, Alberta 35 and Manitoba 17. From the farm stocks will be taken seed for spring sowing and such amounts as may be required for livestock and poultry feed during the remainder of the crop year, leaving the balance to be divided between deliveries up to July 31 and carry-over stocks at that date.

CANADA: Grain stocks in all positions, March 31, 1951, with comparisons

Position	Wheat	Oats 1/	Barley	Rye
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
In Canada				
On farms	161,450	193,138	72,550	4,075
Country elevators	119,368	20,310	17,141	2,180
Interior private and mill elevators	3,910	637	2,915	7
Interior terminal elevators	9,476	32	771	60
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators	3,506	62	198	2/
Churchill elevator	460	1	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators	35,732	11,396	15,103	3/ 2,706
In transit, rail	5,160	800	665	69
Eastern elevators	3/ 10,768	1,553	1,136	255
Eastern mills	2,275	415	152	-
Western mills	347	150	76	2
Total	352,452	228,494	110,707	9,354
Canadian grain in the United States	370	1,306	314	1,575
Total Canadian grain in North America	352,822	229,800	111,021	10,929
March 31, 1950 stocks				
In Canada	250,090	139,043	65,448	10,004
In the United States	81	54	662	416
Total	250,171	139,097	66,110	10,420

1/ As reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 2/ Less than 500 bushels.
3/ Includes grain in storage afloat.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Next to farm stocks the largest quantity is, of course, in country elevators. That figure of 119 million bushels contrasts with the 1950 figure of 55 million bushels. Stocks at the Lakehead show a reduction of about 12 million bushels of wheat in position for export, compared with a year earlier. Overseas clearances have been smaller than for the comparable period of 1949-50 totaling 119 million bushels for wheat, including flour in grain equivalent to the end of February.

Stocks of oats on hand at the end of March were 230 million bushels, compared with 139 million bushels a year earlier. About 84 percent of the stocks remained on farms. Total barley stocks on March 31 were reported at 111 million bushels, 63 percent larger than the 66 million reported a year earlier. Farm stocks, reported at 73 million bushels were considerably above the 1950 figure of 46 million bushels on that date. Rye stocks, at 10.9 million bushels, show little change from last year's figure. Current farm stocks were placed at 4 million bushels.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

FRENCH COTTON CONSUMPTION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Consumption of cotton in France during the second quarter of the 1950-51 season (November 1950 through January 1951) amounted to 318,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), according to Frederick R. Mangold and Seymour M. Finger, American Embassy, Paris. This was 11 percent above the 287,000-bale consumption during the first quarter of 1950-51, and an increase of 8 percent over the corresponding quarter of the previous season.

On the other hand, imports of all types of cotton are running far below 1949-50 levels. During the November-January quarter of the current season 282,000 bales of cotton were imported compared with 441,000 bales in the same 3 months of 1949-50. As a consequence, total stocks have declined steadily from 496,000 bales at the beginning of the current season on August 1, 1950, to 388,000 bales at the end of the first quarter and continued downward to 351,000 bales at the close of the second quarter. The latter figure represents about a 3½ months' supply at current levels of consumption.

The great difficulty in the supply situation is the shortage of United States cotton. On August 1, 1950, French stocks of American cotton were 171,000 bales. Export allocations of United States cotton for France have amounted to 411,000 bales to date, as compared to French imports of 796,000 bales of cotton from this country during the 1949-50 season. Consumption of United States cotton during the first 6 months of 1950-51 was 335,000 bales, leaving only 247,000 bales of cotton from this country for consumption during the latter half of the season and for carry-over into the next season.

In order to overcome this scarcity of United States cotton French mills are utilizing increasing quantities of American-type cotton from Brazil, Pakistan, and Turkey. For example, during the first 6 months of the current season France has imported 65,000 bales of cotton from Brazil, more than double the 28,000 bales imported from this country during the entire 1949-50 season. However, prices in France on February 1, 1951, of these American-type cottons grown outside the United States were from 2 to 3 times higher than the June 15, 1950, levels, whereas prices of United States cotton increased about 40 percent during this period. This would seem to indicate that prices of the yarn and cloth produced by French mills will be proportionately higher, based on the utilization of more costly raw cotton.

Most recent data on the mill activity in France show that 6,946,000 or 86 percent of the 8,120,000 spindles in place where active in January 1951 as compared with 6,764,000 or 83 percent of the total spindles in place in operation during the same month of 1950. Production of cotton yarn during the second quarter of 1950-51 amounted to 149,816,000 pounds, somewhat above the 138,039,000-pound output in the corresponding quarter of 1949-50, while cotton cloth output during November-January 1950-51 was almost equal to the production in the same quarter of 1949-50. The use of rayon staple continued to increase, constituting approximately 6.7 percent of all raw materials consumed in cotton spinning mills in November and December 1950, compared to 6 percent in September and 4.6 percent in the 1949-50 year. A shortage of wood pulp in France will prevent any large increase in the consumption of rayon staple.

An interesting side light is the experiments being carried out on the production of cotton in southern France. Two factors have stimulated these experiments. First, the large supply of wine in France has depressed prices, causing the vineyardists in southern France to seek alternative cash crops. Second, the world shortage of raw cotton has increased interest in domestic production. French colonial areas supply only about 10 percent of mill requirements in France. It is too early to determine the outcome of these experiments in France as production to date has been on a limited scale. In 1951-52, planting is expected to amount to about 40 acres.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1951	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound: Spot quotation	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound: Export and intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good	4-26	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	120.40	69.79	11.82
Ashmouni, FGF	"	"	"	102.40	59.35	11.82
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	167.50	97.09	11.82
Karnak, FGF	"	"	"	144.50	83.75	11.82
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 770.00	20.50	21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 840.00	22.36	21.30
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine	4-25	82.28 lbs.	"	120.00	44.00	23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine	"	"	"	129.00	47.30	23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine	"	"	"	149.00	54.63	23.09
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B	4-26	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	2/ 8800.00	79.83	7.45
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2	4-24	101.4 lbs.	Sol	665.00	43.86	28.00
Tanguis, Type 5	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	840.00	55.41	38.44
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4	4-26	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	2/ 390.00	64.16	2.4% ad valorem
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not quoted)		
Sertao, Type 4	"	"	"	2/ 410.00	67.45	" "
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	408.00	67.13	3.0% ad valorem
Torreon		Sp. quintal				
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	(not available)		
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av.Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	44.86	---

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling price.

2/ Nominal.